



Dear Friend,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and staying safe during this unconventional Long Island summer. We've made so much progress in our state to get this virus under control, but it's important that we continue to practice social distancing and wear our masks to maintain it.

As you may know, the House passed the [HEROES Act \(H.R. 6800\)](#) in May to provide further coronavirus relief to state and local governments, businesses, and families. After months of inaction in the Senate, Congress is finally beginning to deliberate compromise legislation for the next relief package. With negotiations still ongoing, I promise I will fight to ensure funding for our state and local governments, unemployment insurance benefits, and assistance for small businesses are included in the final bill.

I am pleased to share that the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#), which I've proudly supported since its inception in March, has [helped keep over 96,000 Long Islanders on payroll](#) so far during this crisis. The PPP was established to provide zero-fee loans to small businesses, non-profit organizations, independent contractors, and other entities, allowing them to retain employees and their salaries, while the country faced widespread COVID-related closures.

While our COVID-19 response remains my top priority, I'd also like to provide updates on some of my other recent work in Congress:

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced this month that fourteen Jewish and other faith-based nonprofit organizations in NY-04 received over \$1.3 million in [Nonprofit Security Grant Program](#) funding. I am a proud supporter and advocate for this program, which supports organizations that are at a higher risk of a terrorist attacks.
- [My bill, the Honoring All Veterans Act \(H.R.3010\)](#), which makes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mission statement inclusive of women and LGBTQ veterans, passed the House Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously.
- I introduced the [VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act](#) to initiate much-needed reform to the VA police force by requiring the use of body cameras, increasing crisis de-escalation and suicide prevention training, and other measures designed to ensure transparency and accountability.
- I voted for this year's defense authorization bill, the [William M. \(Mac\) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act \(H.R. 6395\)](#), which passed the House on July 21. The bill authorizes \$731.6 billion in defense spending over the next year and includes a 3.1% pay raise for servicemembers. Three of my amendments to increase oversight of border wall contracts, strengthen cybersecurity for vulnerable government agencies, and support survivors of sexual assault, sexual or gender harassment, and intimate partner violence were included in the bill.
- My [provision supporting post-research animal adoption](#) was included in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill that passed the House on July 31. This provision sets a federal standard for encouraging animals used in laboratory research with National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to be considered for adoption, guaranteeing they are not euthanized if they can be placed in a loving home.

Lastly, I want to remind you that my office is here to help during this crisis. If you have any questions or require assistance with a federal agency, please call my office at (516) 739-3008 or (202) 225-5516. You can also email me at [kathleenrice.house.gov/contact](mailto:kathleenrice.house.gov/contact).

For more information about the resources available to help during this time, please visit [kathleenrice.house.gov/coronavirus](https://kathleenrice.house.gov/coronavirus).

Please continue to stay safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rice